



LIVE MARIST

Vocations e-newsletter for the Marist Brothers Province Of Australia

INVITE

Welcome to our second edition of livemarist, the vocations e-newsletter for the Province of Australia. As we begin this new year we pray that we may imitate the joy of Mary "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!", and the passion of Pope Francis; "do not be afraid to be generous with Christ, to bear witness to his Gospel", so that together, we may generously live out our vocations as Marists and invite others to share our wonderful way of living the Gospel.

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Vocations
E-Newsletter For
The Marist Brothers
Province Of
Australia

Summer 2014

Livemarist is the quarterly e-newsletter of the Marist Vocations Team. It aims to provide news of vocations ministry events and happenings from around the Province of Australia, together with reflections on Marist life and mission. *Livemarist* is for all members of the Australian Marist Community; Brothers, Lay Marists, those involved in leadership and the education and faith formation of youth and young adults in our ministries. *Livemarist* promotes the vocation of all the baptised, with a special focus on the growth of new members; both Brothers and Lay Marists.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy 2014 to all our Livemarist readers!

One of the enjoyable experiences of the recent summer holidays was taking a road trip with five of the Brothers around the southwest region of Western Australia. Over the two weeks we discovered some amazing natural treasures, located in just one part of this incredibly vast and ancient country of ours.

One of these gems was the treetop walk known as the 'Valley of the Giants' near Denmark. Although estimated at a youthful 400 years in age, compared to the grand colony of 10,000 year old Huon pines of Tasmania, this majestic forest of Karri trees stand tall and proud. The tree-top walk took us above the canopy where we could survey the natural landscape for miles around. At the end of the walk we descended and took time to explore the base of these giants and view their massive trunks, which only four centuries ago were tiny saplings struggling to make their way towards the light and the top of the forest. It was truly an awesome moment to stand in the presence of God's incredible creation!

Vocations ministry provides me with no less a privilege as I accompany young people who are discerning God's call for their own lives. To listen to young men and women reflect on how significant adults; have helped encourage them in their vocational aspirations, gives me hope that God continues to provide the next generation of Marist disciples with good mentors and supporters. One of the great 'encouragers' to emerge in the last 12 months (thanks to the Holy Spirit!) is Pope Francis. He is a champion for vocations, taking every opportunity to tell young people to follow their heart and listen deeply to God's call for them: "God calls you to make definitive choices, and He has a plan for each of you: to discover that plan and to respond to your vocation is to move toward personal fulfilment."

As we commence this new year, I encourage each of us to consider how, in our own life and ministry, we are responding to the call of the 2012 Mission Assembly to grow committed Marists for the future – both Brothers and Lay Marists. A simple word of encouragement or affirmation to a young person may stir the seed of a vocation! I pray that 2014 is a year of joy and new life, as together we help our young Marists grow tall in God's light, so they too may truly become the amazing creation God calls them to be.

God Bless,

Brother Greg McDonald, fms *Director of Vocations*



Br Greg at Valley of the Giants tree-top walk

2014 Vocations Team



Br Greg McDonald



Br Rod Thomson



Br Doug Walsh

Our Vocations Team for 2014 comprises of Br Greg McDonald, Br Rod Thomson and Br Doug Walsh – minus one team member from 2013 with the appointment of Br Patrick Connell to fulltime ministry at St Augustine's College, Cairns. Br Greg and Br Rod are located at Eastwood in Sydney, while Br Doug continues to work in Melbourne with the Fitzroy Community. Br Rod has also been appointed as National Director of Remar.

Our New Novices

On Sunday 2 February, our two Australian postulants, James Hodge and Jack O'Sullivan, together with Sam Amos from the Province of the United States, formally commenced the novitiate stage of their formation at the Marist Novitiate in Esopus, New York. For new readers, James is an ex-student of Marist College Rosalie and Jack is an ex-student from Notre Dame College, Shepparton. Sam hails from Michigan. Br Paul Kane, Assistant Provincial, represented the Australian Province at the Mass and Rite of Incorporation into the Novitiate. The congregation

included many Brothers and Young Lay Marists who are friends of the novices. Br Rob Clark, director of the Novitiate welcomed the three young men into the next stage of their formation.

Following the ceremony, a celebratory luncheon continued long into the afternoon, with many settling in to watch the Super Bowl between the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks! Our prayers and good wishes go with James, Jack and Sam as they enter into this next stage of discerning religious life as Marist Brothers.

Helping Grow Future Young Marists

Marist Life Mentors Program

In partnership with Marist Schools Australia, the Vocations Team has created a 'Marist Life Mentors' formation workshop, enabling teaching and non-teaching staff to promote future Marist life and vocations.

While not a formal mentoring role, the program simply recognizes that all senior students need good adult role models to encourage them and be a good 'sounding board' as they discern their vocation. The Marist Life Mentors program has three basic objectives:

1. to *identify* and affirm senior students who show a capacity to grow in their Marist life
2. to *connect* senior (and postschool)

students to Marist Youth Ministry activities

3. to *invite* senior students to consider the vocation to Religious Life and Priesthood.

In 2013, the Marist Life Mentors program conducted workshops in 10 schools and trained 60 staff who have a particular connection with senior students. To date, the response of participants has been very positive, allowing them to view the role of a Marist Life Mentor as being complementary to their present roles. We look forward to continuing this program across the MSA schools and helping our senior students to find pathways in their young adult lives.



Jack, Sam, James and Br Rob at Marist Novitiate in Esopus, New York

Br Paul Kane with James and Jack



Br Greg & Br Rod with the MLM team at Assumption College Kilmore



ACYF

St Marcellin a Support Act at ACYF

A lifesize image of St Marcellin Champagnat proved a major draw card for Marist fans who visited the Vocations and Marist Youth Ministry stall at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival held in Melbourne in December.

Marist students, teachers and other pilgrims flocked to the stall to get a “selfie” with Marcellin who appeared alongside other notables such as Pope Francis and St Mary MacKillop. Held at the Australian Catholic University Campus from December 57, the first national festival gathered

3,500 enthusiastic young people from across the country for a carnival atmosphere of prayer, celebration and Christian formation.

A key component of the festival was the expostyle presentation of Catholic organisations and youth ministry groups, including the Marists. A combined effort from the Vocations Team and Marist Youth Ministry saw the launch of a newly designed banner (“Marists: Live, Connect, Grow, Serve”) together with a new T-Shirt, “Keep Calm and Be Marist”.

Young Marists were out in

force during the days of the festival promoting Marist life and spirituality. The MYM team presented a workshop on “Praying with Mary” while the Vocations Team provided their own presentation, “Keys to Discerning My Vocation” with 70 young adults in attendance. Co-ordinating the stall, Br Rod Thomson explained the importance of the Marist presence at the festival: “This is the largest gathering of Catholic youth since WYD Sydney 2008. As a key provider of youth ministry and formation for young people in the Australian Church, Marists are

here to share how we live the Gospel in the way of Mary and Marcellin, through our everyday lives. Many young people are attending this national gathering for the first time so encountering religious Brothers and young Marists provides them an opportunity to find out more about our Marist way of life and various programs they can participate in.”

Given the overwhelming positive response from young people, it is anticipated that a national Catholic youth festival will be held every three years to coincide with World Youth Day.



School Presentations

2013 saw the Marist Vocations Team give 51 presentations to students in 26 Marist Schools across the country in Years 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12. This year our multimedia presentations will continue similar themes;

Year 6: "Called By Name";

Year 7: "Being Brothers and Sisters";

Year 11: "Stepping Up"

and Year 12 "My Life List", with an emphasis on the 2014 Marist theme "Serve".

Each presentation looks at vocation and the Gospel call to service through the lives of Marist Brothers and Young Marists.

For further information on our school presentations visit:

www.maristvocations.com/



Teaching Marist College Ashgrove students how to use the Indoboard



Br Rod and Br Greg at Marist College Canberra

Recent Ordination Of Marist Canberra Ex-Student

Congratulations to Fr Paul Nulley, ex-student of Marist College ('05) who was recently ordained Priest of the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn. Among the large congregation were Brothers and staff from the Marist Community in Canberra. Archbishop Julian Porteous was the ordaining Bishop, having been Paul's rector at the Good Shepherd seminary at Homebush where Paul spent his early years of formation before transferring to Corpus Christi Seminary in Melbourne.

Paul is the second of three Nulley boys who were educated at Marist College. Paul's mother Gabi teaches in the Junior School and his Father Lou has been involved in accompaniment and spiritual meditation for many years.

The expression of joy and gratitude was obvious on Paul's face, both at his ordination and the next morning, when he celebrated his first Mass. We rejoice with Paul for his Yes to God and pray that the Lord continues to call more Young Marists young people to a life of ministry and service in the Church.



Br Greg and Fr Paul Nulley

Marist House of Discernment Soon to Open

Healy House, the new House of Discernment for the Marist Brothers is soon to open in Eastwood, Sydney. It is named after Br Stanislaus Healy, fms, the fifth Australian to join the Institute and the first Australian-born Provincial.

In a spirit of invitation, listening and conversation, Healy House seeks to provide young men considering a vocation to the consecrated life as a religious brother with an opportunity to live together in an intentional Christian community, as a way of supporting each other on their vocational journey. Healy House isn't a Brothers' community, but rather, a home in which young men who are asking questions about God's call in their lives can live these questions together.

Mission of Healy House

Acknowledging that God continues to call young men to consider a life of service and vocation in the Catholic Church, the Marist Brothers have created Healy House as a place in which individuals can be assisted and mentored in exploring that call, both privately and communally.

Who is Healy House For?

Healy House is for young men aged 20-35 wishing to explore their vocation to religious life while maintaining their current

employment or student status.

Residents might be students studying at University or TAFE or employed in a full-time or part-time capacity. The Discernment Program supports them by providing an environment conducive to prayer, community and pastoral activity. The Director of Vocations co-ordinates the program and lives with the residents.

Location

Healy House is located in the suburb of Eastwood, just 30 minutes north-west of the CBD and central to Australian Catholic University, Catholic Institute of Sydney, Broken Bay Institute, Notre Dame University, Macquarie University, Sydney University and the University of NSW. It is adjacent to a Marist Brothers Community and situated in the Catholic Parish of Eastwood.

Know Someone Who Might Be Interested?

If you know of any young men who might be interested in being part of a Discernment House community or you would like to find out further information on Healy House, please Contact

Brother Greg on 0407 492 022 or go to www.maristvocations.com/house-of-discernment

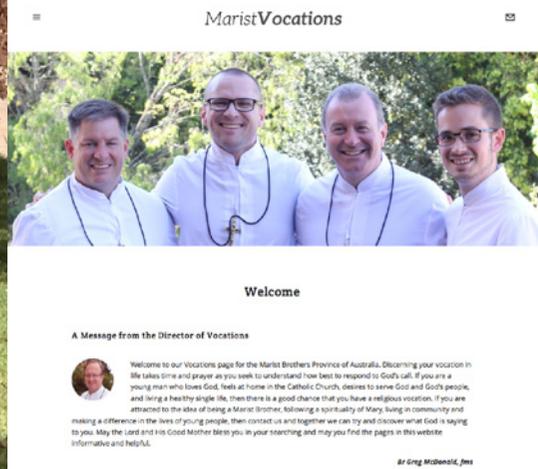


New Vocations Website Launched

One of the major goals the Vocations Team set for itself in 2013 was to create a website dedicated to promoting greater awareness about the Brothers' way of life. This project has been the fruit of several months' work, in collaboration with the Brothers' Vocation Reference Group.

Special thanks to Liam Desic, our web designer from the MYM Team in Brisbane, for creatively designing the layout of the text and images. The website is a work in progress with videos, interviews and individual testimonies yet to be finalised and uploaded.

We hope in time the vocations website will become a helpful resource for schools, young adults and enquirers. Please visit www.maristvocations.com or check out our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/MaristVocations and like us!



BECOMING AGENTS OF CHANGE

YR 11 FORUM

Eighty-five enthusiastic Year 11 students from MSA Schools across Eastern Australia became 'Agents of Change' at the annual Marist Justice Forum, held at two locations in NSW and QLD, during September 2013. The Forum, now in its tenth year, is conducted by the Vocations Team in partnership with the Marist Youth Ministry Team.

The young people who gathered at The Hermitage, Mittagong and the James Byrne Retreat Centre, Toowoomba bonded very quickly as they recognized their common Marist backgrounds and their desire to make a positive difference in the world.

The Forum comprised of inputs and small group sharing, restorative practices such as Inner & Outer Circles and theatre sports, liturgies and meditation. One highlight was listening to key presenters on a particular theme of Justice.

Zach Woodward, a Young Marist spoke of his immersion experience to Cambodia while a student at Marist College Ashgrove. Zach reflected with participants on the importance of bringing insights into faith and justice back to Australia and continuing to do small acts of goodness in everyday life in within the local community. Caroline Bateson from Marist Youth Care spoke of her work in helping young people at risk, including young resettled refugees, in continuing to access educational opportunities, and Paul Power from the Refugee Council of NSW, shared his thoughts

on our nation continuing to reach out to people in the Asia-Pacific region in great need, especially those who a seeking a better life free from poverty and war.

One Year 11 participant wrote, "The Forum helped me to find my voice on issues of justice that I have previously been quiet about. The passion and conviction of all the presenters has encouraged me to speak up about injustices I can see reflected in my own community. I am inspired!"

At the end of the weekend, there was a greater sense of being part of a wider Marist family and how doing justice is part of being a member of the family of Jesus, Mary and Marcellin.

Many thanks to the staff who gave their time to accompany their students on the weekend and to the Marist Schools who generously provided the financial support to enable their students to attend.



5 WAYS TO HELP PROMOTE A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

1

Pray for an increase in vocations to the consecrated life and priesthood. Jesus says in Matthew 9:38 “to beg the master of the harvest to send laborers into the vineyard.” If we want more religious brothers, sisters and priests, we all need to ask.

2

Teach young people how to pray. Pope Benedict XVI said that unless we teach our youth how to pray, they will never hear God calling them into a deeper relationship with Him and into the discipleship of the Church.

3

Invite active young adults and senior students you know to consider a vocation to the consecrated life or priesthood. A simple, sincere comment should not be underestimated. An easy way to do this can be remembered by four letters: ICNU. “John, I see in you (ICNU) the qualities that would make a good brother or priest, and I want to encourage you to pray about it.” It is a non-invasive way to encourage openness to a religious vocation.

4

Make it attractive. Show religious life and priesthood for what it truly is – a call to be a spiritual brother, mother or father to the whole family of faith and those they encounter in their life of service. The challenge for priests and religious is to be joyful models of their vocations.

5

Talk about it! Vocations must be talked about regularly if a “vocation culture” is to take root in schools, homes, communities and parishes. This means, first and foremost, the people need to hear about vocations from teachers, religious and priests through homilies, prayers of the faithful, and discussions in the classroom. Vocations kept out of sight are out of mind.

Immersion Opportunities For Marist Contacts

The Vocations Team provides opportunities for young men on our Marist Contact Program to do a Solidarity experience through Marist Volunteers Australia. Contacts are placed in various communities within Australia or throughout the Asia-Pacific where they can experience first-hand, the life and ministry of the Brothers.

One of our Marist Contacts, Rob Whyte (26), is currently undertaking a 3-month Solidarity experience with the Marist Community in Samut Sakhon in Southern Thailand, working with the Brothers and Lay Marists in a school for children of poor Burmese migrant families. Here Rob is seen running a small class with Burmese students. We wish Rob all the best as he continues his Solidarity placement.



Here Rob is seen running a small class with Burmese students